CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	1. 12th Artillery Regiment 2. Czech 122 mm. Howitzer	
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1. It is reported that the soldiers of   Czech Artillery Regiment No. 12 (Howitzer 122 mm) are trained with blank (wooden) ammunition. From 1 November 1952 until mid-July 1953 only one exercise with live ammunition was staged; it took place in the vicinity of Marianske Lazne (4958 N - 1242 E) in March 1953. At that time targets placed at a distance of five kilometers were shelled. Only two howitzers were used in the exercise.

2. The ammunition for Czech 122-mm howitzers consists of a projectile, fuse, and cartridge case. When loading the howitzer the projectile is pushed into the barrel and then the cartridge case is filled with gunpowder. The projectile has the following dimensions:

Width	121.92 mm
Length	450 mm
Weight	20.35 kg

Each projectile is marked either "plus" or "minus". "Plus" means 0.5 percent overweight, "minus", 0.5 percent underweight. Only shells with the same markings are stored in one place. The shells are filled with "tritol". The fuse of the shell is screwed on immediately prior to actual use. Before firing, the fuse is timed for explosion upon impact or at a set time after the impact. The cartridge case is 550 mm long. The firing charge consists of one package (7 x 10 cm) of basic gun powder and the propelling charge of four small packages (5 x 7 cm) and four large packages (7 x 10 cm) of gun powder. The powder is packed in linen sacks. The number of packages of gun powder to be packed into the cartridge case is determined prior to firing. The range of the 122-mm howitzer is 12 kilometers.

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